ing 1993-94 India has imported a to tal of 6,27,033 tonnes of pulp; and waste papar, which includes waste paper also. .;.

(b) and (c) The quantity of waste paper collected in the country is es timated at 8 to 8.5 lakh tonnes per annum. Out of this about 7 lakh tonnes of waste paper is used for re-cyling by the paperand paper board industry.

(d) Domestic availability of waste paper is not adequa'te'to meet the en-fire requirement 'of' the industry. Therefore, import of waste paper is allowed. Besides requirement for high grade of waste paper to produce better quality of paper is met from imports.

(e)Pulp and waste paper is being imported from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas Belgium, Brazil. Canada; Channel IS Chile;. Chinese Taipei; China PRP, Columbia Cyprus; D-enmark, Estonia, Fuiland France, German Fed. Rep. Hongkong, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaicia, Japan; Korea RP; Kuwait. Malaysia, Morocco, , Netherland, Newaealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, - Portugal, Quatar, Hissua Saudi Arab.- Singapore, South Africa. Spain, Srilanka, Switzerland, Tanzania RBP Thailand, United Arab Emirates,' USA etc. 627,033 tonnes of pulp and waste pa-pare was imported duping ' 1993-91 at a total cost of Rs. 49,439-60 lakhs.

(f) and- (g)' Under the Export-Tmport Policy 1992-97 waste papa? is freely importable.

Export-Impcrt Policy is reviewed constantly and changes are made whenever required.

of sbursement of duty drow hack for Exporter

812, SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMENCE be pieafeed to state:

(a) whether Government have con-situatsd a core group to look into the issues of delay in the disburse-ment of duty drawback ciaimis for exporters; ;" '

(b) if so, whether the committee has been,, asked to submite the report by the end of Mark 93.

(c) if so what are the other points referred to by the committee;

(d) by when the committee is likely to submit its recommendations;

(e) whether it is a fact that the exporters have strongly urged Govrnment to retain Section 80 HH and 80 HHE on loag-term basis an,d aIso rationalise.; on the basis OF computation so that exporters can do their export planning aver a.relaisve- ly longer period;

(f) if so, whether Government have accepted the sitggestion; and

(g) if so, by when this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF *COMMERCE* (SHRI PRANAB. MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir,

Co) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Since the Rupee has been, made convertible on the current and Trade accounts, the exporters are receiving the market value for their forex earnings. The rate of Direct taxation have been redtnsed substn-' tially benefitting the exporters. Due to importance of .export earnings for the balance of payment position, the support required by the exporters is being reviewed from time to time in, the light of emerging external and internal; - factors..

Marine produet experts from Visa-' khapatnam

813, SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:' Will the Minister of COMMER-CE be pleased to state:

(a) the total. marine, products ex-ported from Visakhapatnam Port during 1993-94

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra - Pradesh is fast emerging as tfte leader IN marine product . exports; end

(c) whether the MPEDA office will be shifted to Visakhapatnam to, facilitate greater growth in marine product exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In 1933-94, 16108 Million tonnes valued at Rs. 454.11 crores were exported from Visakhapatnam Port.

. (b) In Andhra Pradesh prawn far. ming is fast developing resulting in increased exports Of Shrimp.

(c) A Regional Office of MPEDA is already functioning at Visakhapatnam.

DeeentMlising Operations of DGS&D

814. SHRI G. *Y.* KRISHAN: Will the Minister .of COMMERCE be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov ernment is to decentralise the opera tions of the Directorate General Sup. -lies & Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, the salient features there, of; and

(c) By when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TEE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) In terms of the Government decision taker, towards the end of 1991, ou the basis of a policy review undertaken with regard to centralised purchase of stores and equipments required by various Central Government Ministries | Departments through the GS&D, the work of procurement against adhoc indents has been transferred from the DGS&D and its Regional offices to various indenting Ministries [Departments alongWithith officer;: and steff dealing with the work. How-ever. DGS&D continue$_E$ to handle the proeurement of items of common use and in regHilar demand required by r more than one Central Government Ministry [Department on Rate|Funning Contract basis with the exception of POL products required by Ministry of Railways and Defence the procura-ment of which has been transferred *to* the two Ministries. Besides con- eluding Rate[Running contracts, DGS&D continues to render other services like inspection of stores, shipp-ing and clearance of stores, etc. as before. There is no proposal' at present under consideration of Government to further decentralise the functions of DGS&D.

Expanding *equity* base of MMTC and STC

815. SHRI G. Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for going to market to expand the equity base of MMTC and STC and, thereby reduce Government's stake to a minority holding; and

(b) if *so,* the reasons for Govern ment ceding the majority and how MMTC and STC are expected to beef up their capital base with a fresh eauity issue and what would be Governments share in the decanalised trade frame work?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the decana- lisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC and MMTC, Government have been reviewing the need to re- orient and re-structure these Corpor. ations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. The matter is under active, sctive consideration.

MPEDA's coneetration on acquaculture

816. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

fa) whether it is a fact that MPED is only concentration *on* acoqicul-' ture and neglecting marine exports: